SUBJECTS.

Dewan's reply.—The Member's suggestions will be communicated to the High Court for such action as may appear to them necessary.

23. *Commission orders of Civil Courts for valuation of improvements on properties.*

Mr. Devan Krishnan Karthavu (Member, Shertallay Taluk) said that the desirability of entrusting commission orders of Civil Courts for valuation of improvements on properties to respectable citizens of the locality for execution had been brought up at the third session of the Assembly, and Government then promised to suggest to the High Court the advisability of appointing others than Court employés for the purpose. Orders were since issued for entrusting such commission work to vakils or retired officers. He said that the change was not in pursuance of the representation made to Government and that, even at present, such orders were being executed by the Court officials, such as Amins. The Amin, when he came to a place for the purpose of valuing a property in connection with a civil dispute, usually favoured that party who gave him an illegal gratification, prepared a valuation list and got the same attested by two of his own followers. As the lists prepared by these Commissioners were practically final, the hardships the people were put to under the present arrangement were very great. He therefore requested that the commission orders in such cases might be ordered to be given to representatives of the people, instead of to the Court officials, and that, if that was not practicable, the records prepared by the Commissioners might at least be caused to be attested by respectable and experienced villagers, of whom four or five might be previously selected and a list kept for each proverthi.

Dewan's reply.—The Member will do well to put in writing all that he has to say clearly and in detail and send up the same to Government. His suggestions will then be communicated to the High Court for such action as may appear to them necessary.

24. *Repeal of the High Court Circular regarding the attestation of depositions recorded in Courts.*

Mr. K. Raman Unnithan (Member, Kunnattur Taluk) said that the High Court, by their Circular No. 25 of 1083, dispensed with the attestation by the opposite party of depositions recorded in Courts. Though the standing orders required that the depositions taken down each day should be signed by the presiding officer of the Court on the same day, the rule was not generally observed in practice, with the result that it afforded much scope to the petty subordinates of the Court to tamper with the records in any way they liked. He therefore requested that the criminal circular in question might be repealed.

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SUBJECTS.

Dewan's reply.—The Member's views will be communicated to the High Court for such action as they may deem necessary.

5. *Revision of the High Court Circular relating to the production of copies of records by parties.*

Mr. M. Kesava Pillai (Member, Neyyattinkara Taluk) said that, under the Circular of the High Court, even copies of the records to be filed by the parties had to be obtained through the Court copyists. The parties therefore had now to entrust their valuable documents to the copyists without even a receipt therefor, and they had to wait for a very long time before copies were obtained from the latter. Prior to the present Circular, the parties were allowed to file their own copies in such cases. As the Circular in question gave room for much delay and hardship to the litigant public, the Member requested that it might be so modified as to restore the old practice.

Dewan's reply.—If the Member will write down in detail all that he has to say and send up the same to Government, it will be forwarded to the High Court for such action as they may deem necessary.

6. *Substitution of a Tamil religious book for the Koran for administering oaths to Mahomedans in Courts.*

Mr. Gulamytheen Pillai of Thiruvithancode (Member, Nominated) said that the Mahomedans considered it highly objectionable that the Koran, which was their religious book, should be handled by non-Mahomedans in administering oaths in courts. According to their religious injunctions, even the Mahomedans could not touch the book when they were in a polluted state. No doubt, the circular orders of the High Court laid down that the Koran should be handled as far as possible only by Mahomedans in administering oaths, but he had painfully to mention that the practice was not in strict conformity with the provisions of the Circular. He had brought up this subject at the second session of the Assembly, but nothing had been done to redress this grievance of the community. He therefore requested that any Tamil book containing religious stories of the Mahomedan faith might be substituted for the Koran.

Dewan's reply. – Government will invite the opinion of the High Court on the suggestion made by the Member and see what could be done.

7. *Separation of the revenue and magisterial functions of Tahsildars.*

Mr. G. Krishna Pillai (Member, Vaikam Taluk) said that, owing to the concentration of multifarious duties in the Tahsildar, his magisterial work suffered at present. He had to attend to the work of revenue collection, dispose of puduval, transfer of registry and other revenue cases, and supervise the conduct of the religious and chari-

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